

THIRD ORDER

news

Issue 62

November 2017

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PROVINCIAL CHAPTER, OCTOBER 2017

Chapter met in Ely on Friday 13th October until Sunday 15th October. It was the first with our new Minister Provincial, Jamie Hacker Hughes, at the helm. Sister Sue, CSF, Brother Philip Bartholomew, SSF and Sister Paula, OSC were there with their wisdom and their guiding presence. (First and Second Orders are represented annually at the Third Order October Chapter), Angela Alexander, as Minutes Secretary, was welcomed as was Sarah Cawdell, the PFG elect, who was shadowing Paul Bodenham. Also there were Alison Tyler as the new Link Tertiary for London and South East England Cluster, John Evans, Area Minister for Wales as an Observer and Anne Gray, AFG Scotland, who attended in place of, Shelagh Norton, our Link Tertiary from Ireland and Scotland. Altogether there were twenty one of us.

With new people come different styles of 'doing things'. This Chapter benefitted from the integration of Formation with Business and vice versa. Whether it was Formation time, Business time or Worship time, a large central candle was lit before each session. This was helpful in focusing intent and reminding us of the presence of the Holy Spirit. All members of Chapter now constitute

The Formation Team, a recognition that Formation is as important, if not more important a role, for us as the Business aspects. We began with Midday Prayer in the Chapel. After lunch Chapter started with an informal but extremely helpful session on Formation led by the PFG and helped by the PNG (Peter Dixon). It helped us as a Chapter to deepen our understanding of ourselves and to realise how counter cultural we are in terms of our preferred way of thinking. Formation issues are being shared with Areas and a draft plan will be discussed at the next Chapter.

Some of what Chapter does comes under the heading of "Administration". For example, having asked for ages (or years or decades of birth) to be filled in on personal Annual Review forms, then where that information goes for collation is important. It goes to Link Tertiaries from AFG's and the LT will send that information to Mollie Kingham as Membership Secretary. This information is necessary so the age profile of the Order is known and that information goes into the thinking of how we see and plan our future.

Some of what happens on Chapter is information sharing. For those who had not already heard, we learnt with sadness of the death of Sister Damien OSC, and the death of Peter Cannings who did so much for Franciscan Aid. Richenda Milton-Daws has now taken over the task of being responsible for Franciscan Aid. We also heard that Clark Berge from the Province of the Americas will be going to Hilfield in January as Guardian. The Area Team Handbook is on the Website and is to be reviewed in June 2018 so any comments please send in for that date.

We learned that the IPTOC (Interprovincial Chapter of The Third Order of St. Francis) had met in September in High Leigh Conference Centre, England for its sexennial meeting. John Heberton from New Zealand has been appointed the new Minister General of The Third Order. Recommendations arising out of IPTOC will be addressed in the February Chapter.

Chapter is highlighting 2019, the 800th anniversary of Francis meeting the Sultan of Egypt as a special year in the life of the Order.. Areas and Clusters are being encouraged to arrange something to mark the anniversary in some way and, indeed, some already have plans. Chapter would like to hear what others may be thinking about..

The amazing legacy from our Convocation last May took up a great deal of our thoughts and prayers and ongoing discussions. "The Way Forward" group (which is made up of Jamie Hacker Hughes, Paul Bodenham, Simon Thane, John Evans, John Lovatt, Tim Higgins and Wendy Scott) took a Mission Statement to Chapter and spoke of their progress so far. Jamie has had nearly one hundred people reply to his letter of request for people to participate in a programme of renewal for the Province following Convocation. Groups are to be formed, each concerned with an area of interest that emerged from Convocation.

- *Making an Impact on the church and the world through our distinctive charism*
- *Going deeper in prayer and discipleship ongoing formation and spirituality*
- *Demonstrating an renewed commitment to Justice Peace and the Integrity of Creation*
- *Growing the Third Order in depth, engagement and number, with a particular emphasis on encouraging younger people to discover their own distinctive charism and aspirations.*
- *Developing our structures to serve our mission*
- *Releasing the energy to drive our renewal.*

The work is ongoing and progress will be reported at February Chapter. (It is not too late to be part of one of these groups. Please email jamietsf@gmail.com if you wish to sign up)

JPIC, which was high on the priorities of people at Convocation and is a focus for the living out of our Franciscan charism, is part of 'The Way Forward'. You will be hearing much more about what is being proposed in due course.

The TSSF Safeguarding Policy was presented and discussed. It is now more aligned to that of the Chelmsford Diocese as they have kindly agreed to oversee these issues. Training issues will return to February Chapter but the policy is in place.

Any such issues should be directed to safe@tssf.org.uk or telephone 01481 234283

The Assisi Booklet on Ageing, which is entitled *The Franciscan Way of Ageing* has now been recorded so it will be available in CD form as well as in print form. The last minute tidying up is nearly complete and it should be available soon.

A draft of an Assisi book on Prayer will come to next Chapter.

Reports from office holders were made including the financial reports.

One really important issue was brought to the table by Tim Higgins, LT for Wales, Severn, West Midlands and The Marches. It was entitled *Funding our Purpose* and asked us to consider the way that our funds are used for the greater good in accordance with our Aims: To make Christ known and loved; to spread the spirit of love and harmony and to live simply.

Chapter affirmed the concept as was set out in the paper presented and in our next Chapter we will give more thought as to how, exactly, in practice, this will be done - so that His will may be done.

The necessity for the professional revamping of the Website was acknowledged and an IT company was selected from a shortlist and will be instructed to go ahead with the work.

The finance to do this has been ring-fenced.

It was agreed that there would be a Province-wide review of all our Communications, internal, external and in every form, print, website, email, telephone and videoconferencing (g) and social media.

One of the last informal sessions was when Sister Sue, Brother Philip Bartholomew and Sister Paula shared what was happening in their Orders. It was a great privilege to hear this. It felt like hearing news of the family.

On Sunday morning, all work “done”, we all, en masse, went to Ely Cathedral for the Sunday Morning Eucharist.

The next Chapter is on 8-10 February 2018.

Wendy Scott, TSSF

TO PROFESSION (WITH PRAYER)

The following were elected to profession, with prayer:

Ian Hamilton	Solent Area
John Sharp	Scotland
Andrew Doig	Scotland
Clifford Thomas-Smout	Wyvern
Anne Casson	London West
Angela Burkitt	Yorks North & East
Hilary Hawes	Yorks North & East

The following are the names of Tertiaries who have died during the twelve months to Francistide 2017. They were remembered with prayer at the final Eucharist held at Chapter (53)

Name Area/ Local Group

Robert Walter	Cornwall
Heather Jones	East Anglia
Frank Baldwick	Mersey Valley
Dennis Dyson	Borders
Nancy Baker	Ireland
Penlerick Bridges	Winchester
Priscilla Bygott-Webb	Devon
Don Oates	Cornwall
Leslie Stonehold	Shrewsbury
Elisabeth Crosland	Shrewsbury
Pat Riley	East Anglia
Winifred Stone	London West
Barbara Tannahill	Yorkshire North & East
Heather Le Gallez	Channel Islands
Andrea Evans	Beds & Herts
Violet Ashby	Berkshire
Jean Yonge	Winchester
Audrey Hazelden	Cumbria & Lancashire
Angela Fisher	Winchester
Mary Cooper	Lincoln
Pearl Mitchell	Sussex
Patricia Linton	Newcastle
Vanessa Frost	Cumbria & Lancashire
Peter Semens	Scotland
Sylvia Mears	Devon
Derrick Jenkyns	Wyevever
Rosemary Runciman	Wyevever
Rita Rigler	London East & Essex South
Margaret Wickham	Cambridge

Peter Coombes	London East & Essex South
Patricia Miller	East Anglia
Georgina Bennett	Somerset
Shirley Lee	Northampton
Marjorie Hyde	London South
Caryl Gough	Solent
David Claremont	Oxford
Sigrid Larsén	Sweden
Rodney Harrison	Wyevern
Edwin Phillips	Wales
Jonathan Cruickshank	Wyevern
Pam Waller	Kent West
Chris Davenport	Cumbria & Lancashire
Elizabeth Cooke	Wessex
Don Lonsdale	Lincoln
Jean Rhodes	Yorkshire West & Skipton
Frances Lambert	Chiltern
Christobel Williams-Mitchell	Sussex
Pauline Collett	London West
Peter Cannings	Northampton
John Cayton	Cumbria & Lancashire
Martin Länström	Sweden
Valerie Blackburn	Wyevern
Paul Duffett	Cambridge

The full minutes of Chapter
are available on the website

To comply with new Data Protection legislation every tertiary, postulant and enquirer will be asked to give explicit consent to their details being held and used by The Oder. This will happen early in 2018 . Please respond promptly.

JOHN HEBENTON NAMED MINISTER GENERAL OF THE THIRD ORDER SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS



John Hebenton has been named as minister general of the Third Order (Society of Saint Francis, an international Anglican/Episcopal order that accepts men and women, clergy or lay, who are called to a lifelong discipline and vow within the Franciscan tradition). He succeeds Ken E. Norian who was elected 6 years ago.

John was elected at a recent meeting of the Inter-Provincial Third Order Chapter held in High Leigh, England. IPTOC is a gathering of ministers provincial and representatives of the 5 provinces of the Pacific (Aotearoa-New Zealand and Polynesia with Melanesia); Americas; Europe; Africa; and Asia Pacific (Australia, Papua New Guinea and East Asia) held every 6 years.

As minister general, John will serve as 'the functional head of the Third Order throughout the world, and its servant.'

His responsibilities include co-ordinating the interprovincial life of

the Third Order; acting as convenor for meetings of the ministers; and calling the next Inter- Provincial Chapter in 2023.

His priority over the next few months is to begin work on the decisions of the just completed IPTOC.

“This is a huge honour and a humbling responsibility to be minister general at this time. At our recent IPTOC the Spirit of God was clearly moving in a number of our provinces, calling us to renew our identity as Franciscans. 800 years ago Francis of Assisi heard the crucified and risen Christ call him to rebuild the church. He did not see this as building the institution, but simply living the gospel, and living the gospel simply. On his death bed he told his closest brothers that he had done what was his to do, and invited them to listen as Christ showed them what was theirs. Francis says the same to us today. We are being invited to hear again how we might rebuild the church in the way of Francis and Clare. Two significant themes that came out of IPTOC were the need to be more intentional in our ongoing formation as we grow in our lives following Christ in the way of Francis and Clare; and the desire to use the ever increasing technology to do this together rather than separately in our five provinces.”

John is married with three adult children and resides in Mount Maunganui, Aotearoa- New Zealand. He has been ordained for 30 years, with most of his ministry being in youth ministry. Currently he is vicar of the Anglican Parish of Gate Pa, Tauranga, which is situated on the site of one of the last battle sites in the New Zealand Land Wars.

He has been a Third Order Franciscan since 1993 and was life professed in 1995. He has served the Franciscan community as a novice counsellor, area chapter representative and area chaplain.

From 2006 – 20015 he was minister provincial for the Province of the Pacific.

The Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis is the revival within the Anglican Communion in our times of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance originally founded by Saint Francis. In 1205, Francis of Assisi was called by God to rebuild the church.

Early in his ministry, Francis recognized the need to include people from all walks of life within his movement of reform and renewal. The work of following Christ in humility, love and joy, which is the vocation of all Christians, could not be restricted to the traditional life of the Friars and Sisters. This was true in the 13th century and it remains so today.

Today, there are estimated to be over a half-million Franciscans worldwide in the Christian family, including First Order brothers and sisters who live a celibate life in their respective communities, and the Third Order, which consists of men and women, single or in committed relationships who, though following ordinary professions, are called to a dedicated life of service to our Lord through prayer, study, and work.

For information see <http://www.anglicanfranciscans.org/>

or contact: MinGentssf@gmail.com Phone: (NZ) 021 679202

NEW MINISTER PROVINCIAL
Janet Fedders TSSF
for the Province of the Americas

FUTURE CHAPTER DATES

2018

8-10 February

14-16 June

12-14 October

COPY DATE FOR FORTHCOMING ISSUES OF TON

TON 63: 23 February 2018

TON 64: 29 June 2018

TON 65: 26 October 2018

TSSF STUDY & PRAYER EVENTS
IN 2018

Applications are particularly welcome from those who have not attended one of these events previously, or who are returning for only a second time.

Please note that, although no deposits are taken, should you book for one of these events but subsequently need to withdraw, if your place cannot be taken up by someone else, we request you make a donation to the Community of St Clare at Freeland or Society of St Francis at Hilfield so that they are not disadvantaged.

Freeland Study & Prayer Weekend: Friday 27 to Sunday 29
April 2018

Old Parsonage guest house of the Community of St Clare, Freeland, Oxfordshire: arrivals late afternoon Friday, departures after lunch on Sunday. Inclusive cost £120.

Leader: Br Kevin SSF

Title: *What if St Francis had known about Haiku?*

A weekend exploring Haiku as a spiritual path/discipline and including meditation prayer and an openness to nature and the present moment.

The Freeland Study & Prayer Weekend is led on a chosen theme. Participants are not particularly expected to prepare in advance, but the knowledge, wisdom and experience they bring contribute significantly to the success of the weekend.

For more information, or to apply for a place, please email studyprayer@tssf.org.uk putting 'Freeland 2018' in the subject line.

If you do not have access to email, please phone Andrew Baker on 07850 572869.

If you have already registered interest, Andrew will be in touch with you.

October Study & Prayer
Monday 1 to Friday 5 October 2018

The Friary, Hilfield, Dorchester, Dorset: arrivals late afternoon Monday, departures after breakfast on Friday. Inclusive cost £185.

Theme: *Francis for the 21st Century*

The October Study & Prayer event brings together contributions from the participants, each leading a session on his or her chosen topic relating to the theme. These reflections on *Francis for the 21st Century* will be enriched by celebrating Franciscans with the Hilfield Community.

For more information, or to apply for a place, please email studyprayer@tssf.org.uk putting 'Hilfield 2018' in the subject line. If you do not have access to email, please phone Helen Hood on 0131 447 6469. If you have already registered interest, Helen will be in touch with you.

KNOX DICK FUND

This fund makes grants to members of the Third Order – both those who are professed and novices to provide financial assistance to go on Retreat. The Rule of Life of most Tertiaries will include an obligation to go on an annual Retreat and the Fund is intended to help those who would find it difficult to meet this obligation for financial reasons.

The Fund is not available to pay for Pilgrimages or for Study weeks though if a Retreat formed part of those that could be reviewed. If the Retreat is for more than two nights then only the cost of two nights would usually be covered unless there are good reasons for it to be longer. The Fund will also contribute to the cost of travelling to the Retreat.

An Application is made to the Administrator of the Fund by email, letter or telephone call. The Application needs to include the dates of the Retreat, the cost of the Retreat and any associated travel

costs and the financial circumstances of the applicant. The fund is only for those who are in need and the administrator needs to have sufficient information to make a decision.

If it is decided that a grant should be made it will usually be for 50-80% of the cost of the retreat. If possible the payment of the grant is made direct to the applicant's bank account and the details will be requested as part of the application process. A cheque can be sent if this is preferred.

The current administrator, since March 2016, is Mrs Jane Gillbe. She is a Chartered Accountant dealing particularly with personal tax; she is also a trained Pastoral Assistant and a Spiritual Director in the Guildford Diocese.

Any application made will be treated with utmost confidentiality though the names and amounts of grants made are known to the Provincial Treasurer.

Members of the Third Order should go on Retreat and please do not let the cost of doing this get in the way.

Jane Gillbe TSSF,
Administrator Knox Dick Fund
5 Maori Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2EG knoxdick@tssf.org.uk
01483 562571

TON EDITOR

Sue Charles will soon have served three years in this post and TSSF needs a volunteer to replace her. Tertiaries who have suitable skills (the ability to edit a document, turn it into a file in PDF format and email this to Areas) are invited to contact Chris Jenkins (Communications Coordinator). The Editor is appointed by Chapter after a recommendation from him. More information can be obtained from Chris or Sue.

Membership Secretary.

Mollie Kingham is to retire as our membership secretary and we need to find someone to fill this post. Mollie keeps the database of members up to date, and supplies reports about the membership to various officers. This is an important function in our Province, and Tertiaries who are proficient with Excel spreadsheets are encouraged to contact Chris Jenkins (Communications Coordinator).

TSSF - ACTING FOR PEACE AND ALL GOD

**Tuesday 17 April 2018
10.30am to 4.00pm
St Luke's Centre, Birmingham**

Join a day to grow TSSF in 'walking the talk' of our profession
Find common cause with Francis, sisters and brothers, in a world of

- migration and security
- plastic and the Oceans
- power and the arms trade
- climate and justice.

We will:

- ❖ Find energy in contemplative practice
- ❖ Listen for the call of the Spirit and the cry of the earth
- ❖ Hear fellow Tertiaries' stories of witness in today's world
- ❖ Resolve ways to make our vocation visible
- ❖ Grow our part in the way forward from Convocation

Further details: tim.tssf@gmail.com

TSSF RETREATS AND OTHER EVENTS

RETREATS AT THE OLD PARSONAGE, FREELAND

Dates: Friday 2 – Monday 5 March 2018

***Perfectly messing it up: A perspective from 14th century
English poetry***

Silent Retreat

Conductor: Revd Dr Hugh White

Cost: £165 including all conductor's expenses

Dates: Friday, 11 – Monday 14 May 2018

The Lord's Prayer

Silent Retreat:

Conductor: Revd Peter Boulton-Lea

Cost: £165 including all conductor's expenses

Dates: Monday 9 – Thursday 12 July 2018
'Ye servants of his that do his pleasure' (Psalm 103. 21)

Silent retreat

Conductor: Fr Michael Campling, TSSF

Cost: £165, including all conductor's expenses

Monday 15 – Thursday 18 October 2018

Epiphanies

Silent Retreat

Conductor: Revd Christopher Wren, TSSF

Cost: £165 including all conductor's expenses

Bookings and enquiries: Lesley Sutton,

12 Hill Top Road, Oxford, OX4 1PB

Tel: 01865 248847

Email: oxfordretreat@yahoo.co.uk

Please contact us if the cost will be difficult, we don't want anyone to be deterred by the charge"

EAST ANGLIA AREA RETREAT

**Dates: Friday 3 August 4pm to
Sunday 5 August lunchtime 2018**

at Bishop Woodford House, Ely

Conductor: the Right Revd Stephen Platten, former TSSF
Provincial Minister, former Bishop of Wakefield

Cost: Standard Single Room:

£144 + £20 Conductor's expenses

En-suite Single Room:

£159 + £20 Conductor's expenses

Deposit £50 (non returnable)

Cheques should be made payable to

John Worsfold – not John Bruce Worsfold

Booking form can be obtained by contacting John (Bruce)

Worsfold, The Friary,

21 Somerton Avenue, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4EY. Tel: 01502
583 554

*All opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors
and contributors and not necessarily those of the European
Province of the Third Order, Society of Saint Francis*

WHO TO SEND THINGS TO

Changes in address, telephone number, e-mail address, TSSF Office held

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West Molesey KT8 1TH
T: 020 8979 8053 E: memsec@tssf.org.uk
E-mail copy to Chris Jenkins (PCC):
E: comms@tssf.org.uk

All other matters relating to communication

Chris Jenkins,
Provincial Communications Coordinator
T: 07860 712354 E: comms@tssf.org.uk

Contributions, TSSF expense claims and letters about finance

John Lovatt,
Provincial Treasurer
Lower Stonehouse Farm, Brown Edge,
Stoke on Trent ST6 8TF
T: 01782 503090 E: treasurer@tssf.org.uk

Enquirers interested in joining the Order

Peter Dixon,
T: 01889 569722 E: novguard@tssf.org.uk

Training and Development

Paul Bodenham,

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Disability Advice Team

(alternative formats, access, support)

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T: 01984 623918
E: disabilityadvisor@tssf.org.uk
Audio, CD and large print copies of various publications are available.

Knox Dick Fund Administrator

Jane Gillbe, Administrator
T: 01483 562571 E: knoxdick@tssf.org.uk

Third Order Resource Material

Third Order Distribution,

The Old Parsonage, 168 Wroslyn Road,
Freeland, Witney, OX29 8AQ.

E: distribution@tssf.org.uk

Payment should be made by Direct Bank Transfer to Lloyds Bank:

Account name:

The Third Order of Society of St Francis

Sort Code: 30 97 16

Account No: 00334910 Reference: TOD

Cheques should be made payable to: Third Order Society of
St Francis

Franciscan Aid

W: www.franciscanaid.co.uk

Website comments and enquiries

E: webmaster@tssf.org.uk

Contact Details for TSSF Networks

Study and Prayer:

studyprayer@tssf.org.uk

Contemplatives: contemplatives@tssf.org.uk

Justice Peace Integrity of Creation:

jpica@tssf.org.uk